

£2M PRICE TAG WILL ALSO HELP 11 OTHER COUNCILS

BIG CITY SELL-OFF TO RAISE MONEY

GLASGOW City Council has launched a prime property sell-off to raise millions of pounds.

The sale of one of the buildings will mean administrative staff at the council's Roads Department being moved - reducing the embarrassment over a half-empty building the council has rented for 18 months at £216,000 a year.

Glasgow, facing cuts of £80million in next year's budget, aims to raise money by selling city centre assets previously owned by Strathclyde Region.

An "offers over £2 million" price tag has already been put on Clive House in India Street, near Charing Cross, with more buildings to follow.

EXCLUSIVE
By JIM McLEAN

However, the ensuing staff reshuffle is good news for Centenary House, the former Co-op building in Morrison Street bought by city developer Alfred Marco for £2.8m.

Moved

The *Evening Times* can reveal the council has been paying £165,000 a year rent since agreeing a 20-year lease in September 1995.

Now Roads Department staff will be moved to work from the building, joining social workers who already operate from there - but this will STILL leave one floor of the four-storey Centenary House empty.

Next in line for sell-off is likely to be the former Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance building in St Vincent Street, also previously owned by Strathclyde Regional Council.

But not all the money from Glasgow's sell-off will go towards easing the city's financial crisis.

Split

Council leaders plan to share the profits between the 11 other former local authorities which formed Strathclyde Region, PLUS the police, water and fire authorities.

If the Clive House sale nets enough, an agreement gives the first £1m to the other authorities.

The next £1m is for Glasgow, and 50 per cent of anything over £2m is for Glasgow, with the remainder split among the others.

Attractive

Clive House, previously the offices for the city's Housing Department, then Social Work and Roads, and finally Social Work, is the first building for sale because of its prime location.

Planning permission has been given for an adjoining building in India Street owned by Customs and Excise.

Developers see this area as one of the most attractive, with premium office space and excellent motorway connections.

Rodger McConnell, director of Glasgow's Property Services, said: "We hope to get a couple of million for it."



WORTH A LOT OF CASH ...
Glasgow City Council is renting Centenary House (top), but has put Clive House (left) up for sale. The ex-Guardian Royal Exchange building (below) is also likely to be sold.



Fergie in news deal

THE Duchess of York is to write a syndicated newspaper column as part of a deal said to be worth £100,000 a year.

Fergie will write for the New York Times Syndicate, the world's largest syndication service, which has more than 2,000 outlets, it was reported today.

But her column is unlikely to be published in Britain because she is anxious to avoid upsetting the Queen. The duchess will "comment on events and social issues great and

small from the perspective of her life unfolding on a global stage", according to the syndicate president, Karl Horwitz.

She will write about "matters close to her heart, particularly causes related to children" and occasionally answer readers' questions.

Earlier this year, Fergie announced that her various jobs have helped her clear a £4.3 million overdraft in four months.

FERGIE FIGHTS THE FLAB - Page 7

Cash and carry to go under scrutiny

A FULL-SCALE fraud probe into a company set up by a convicted killer

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CITY CHIEFS

Move defies order from Labour HQ

GLASGOW councillors have voted to defy the Labour Party by planning their own investigation into the 'votes for trips' row.

However, the move is in direct opposition to Scottish Labour Party secretary Jack McConnell, who warned the city Labour group to leave the party itself to investigate.

Meanwhile, it emerged that Glasgow had approved a £7500 trade mission to its Russian twin Rostov-on-Don. But, unusually, no councillors will be going, economic development convenor Susan Baird said today.

Although the council is leading the 'mini' trade mission this spring elected members will stay at home.

The concession is unlikely to alter the course of the National Executive Committee inquiry into allegations by city leader Bob Gould that some councillors had tried to trade their vote for trips to conferences in the UK.

Confident

Group convenor councillor Jean McPadden said she was confident an independent inquiry - perhaps handled by the Accounts Commission, the local authority spending regulator - would find the allegations to be unfounded.

She said that Labour group members were unhappy they might have to wait until after a May General Election before

By VIC RODRICK
the allegations were refuted.

There were also fears that a Labour Party investigation would be seen as biased in favour of party interests.

The move infuriated Mr McConnell, who warned that councillors would have to answer for their actions if 1p of Council Tax payers' money was spent on "an unnecessary stunt."

Thorough

He said "The Labour inquiry is already under way and will be thorough."

"In the meantime, Glasgow councillors should get on with running the council properly."

●Voice of the Times
- Page 8



FIGHT THE CUTS... the angry crowd at the community meeting

Fury over Lally's Alley

FROM PAGE 1

that the cuts were in revenue budgets, while the bowling centre was urban aid capital expenditure.

However, Scottish Office officials pointed out: "Urban Aid money is donated to a particular area. In this case all decisions about Castlemilk's funding are taken at local level, by Castlemilk Partnership and by Glasgow City Council."

Threat

Last night more than 300 angry residents, union reps and community activists rallied together to blast the cuts in Urban Aid funding, from £4.4m to £2.4m in two years.

Projects under threat include Support to Alcohol Affected Families Project, the Sports Forum and St Martin's Extended Day Care Nursery.

Protesters accuse



JOHN KINLOCH

Provost Lally of promoting the alley at their expense. Glasgow City Council proposed and agreed the alley. Pat Lally is chairman of its Castlemilk sub-committee.

But Castlemilk Partnership threw out the proposal two years ago because they regarded it as a lower priority than other ventures.

Pat Bonar, a community rep on the group, said

today: "The bowling project is regarded as Pat Lally's baby. This is a matter we will be raising with the council leaders in the City Chambers."

"The funding for the bowling project has been pushed through by the council - we haven't had much of a say in it all."

Feelings also ran high at last night's meeting.

Urban aid worker Ann Henderson said: "The capital money of £700,000 this year and £700,000 next year is being put aside for what? This adds up to £1.4m. Is it just a coincidence that the money that has been proposed for the indoor bowling green is about £1.3m?"

One activist, heart specialist John Kinloch, has written to Tony Blair warning: "I am drawing your attention to these proposed cuts because the party nationally will suffer for the mindless actions of the party in George Square."

But Provost Lally today said the rules mean the cash could not be used to save threatened projects.

He maintained it could only be spent on a new capital project like the bowling centre.

Drain

And if the bowling centre was not built, they could lose the money.

He added: "This was approved by the community reps and Castlemilk sub-committee last October and the funding is available within the current year's programme. The indoor bowling centre will not be a drain on next year's revenue."

"It is not taking the place of anything else or competing with anything else. This is a piece of nonsense."

The campaigners now intend to lobby a meeting of the Castlemilk Partnership tomorrow where the cuts will be discussed.

They had planned to stay in the Windy Nook district of Gateshead on Tyneside, but those hopes have been dashed.

It has emerged that last week they left to start a new life in a small Worcestershire village.

The family's close friend, neighbour Linda Boffey, said: "They could not stand the aggro any more."

Teenager death quiz

POLICE were today continuing to question a man arrested in connection with the murder of schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins.

The 44-year-old suspect, from Hastings, East Sussex, was detained as detectives released details of a scar-faced man they wanted to talk to about claims that Billie-Jo (13) was being stalked.

It has also been revealed that the schoolgirl, who was bludgeoned to death at her foster parents' home in Hastings, had claimed she was being stalked two years ago.

Man dies at football

A GERMAN businessman collapsed and died playing in a football match in an Ayrshire town.

The tragedy happened last night shortly after a group of businessmen toured a giant paper mill at Irvine.

They left the plant and went to neighbouring Kilwinning for a friendly five-a-side football match.

But one of the players, a 56-year-old German, collapsed clutching his chest.

He was taken to Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, but was dead on arrival. He is thought to have had a heart attack.

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WEATHER SHOWERS, GALE FORCE WINDS MAX TEMP

TONIGHT: Clear intervals and showers, some wintry, but becoming dry later. Strong southwest winds moderating. Minimum temperature 1°C (34°F).

TOMORROW: Dry and bright in the east at first, but rain moving into the west, spreading across all parts. Strong southeast then southwest winds. Maximum temperature 7°C (45°F).

OUTLOOK FOR WEDNESDAY: Showers or longer spells of rain, some heavy. Strong westerly winds and normal temperatures.

ENGLAND TOMORROW: Showers or longer spells of rain, some heavy. Very windy.

HIGH TIDE AT GREENOCK: 10.43pm.

TONIGHT

TOMORROW AM

SEA 1 SEA 2 SEA 3 SEA 4 SEA 5 SEA 6 SEA 7 SEA 8 SEA 9 SEA 10 SEA 11 SEA 12 SEA 13 SEA 14 SEA 15 SEA 16 SEA 17 SEA 18 SEA 19 SEA 20 SEA 21 SEA 22 SEA 23 SEA 24 SEA 25 SEA 26 SEA 27 SEA 28 SEA 29 SEA 30 SEA 31 SEA 32 SEA 33 SEA 34 SEA 35 SEA 36 SEA 37 SEA 38 SEA 39 SEA 40 SEA 41 SEA 42 SEA 43 SEA 44 SEA 45 SEA 46 SEA 47 SEA 48 SEA 49 SEA 50 SEA 51 SEA 52 SEA 53 SEA 54 SEA 55 SEA 56 SEA 57 SEA 58 SEA 59 SEA 60 SEA 61 SEA 62 SEA 63 SEA 64 SEA 65 SEA 66 SEA 67 SEA 68 SEA 69 SEA 70 SEA 71 SEA 72 SEA 73 SEA 74 SEA 75 SEA 76 SEA 77 SEA 78 SEA 79 SEA 80 SEA 81 SEA 82 SEA 83 SEA 84 SEA 85 SEA 86 SEA 87 SEA 88 SEA 89 SEA 90 SEA 91 SEA 92 SEA 93 SEA 94 SEA 95 SEA 96 SEA 97 SEA 98 SEA 99 SEA 100

See ... 0 calm, 1 slight, 2 moderate, 3 rough, 4 very rough

THE MET OFFICE

B'celona	15	Sunny
C'hagen	-2	Fair
Corfu	17	Sunny
Faro	16	Sunny
Geneva	10	Sunny
Gibraltar	19	Sunny
Malorca	17	Sunny
Paris	11	Fair
Tenerife	20	Cloudy
Venice	08	Fair
Glasgow	09	Rain
Edinburgh	09	Rain
Aberdeen	06	Rain
Blackpool	07	Rain
London	10	Rain
Manc'ster	08	Rain

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CARAVAN HOLIDAYS TO BE WON

TURN TO PAGE 5



£5000 KITCHEN

TURN TO PAGE 21

WIN A MOUNTAIN BIKE: PAGE 13

WIN UP TO £100 A DAY PAGE 15

WIN AN £8000 WEDDING PAGE 35

Dunblane school to close during hour of horror

DUNBLANE Primary School will open 90 minutes later than normal on the first anniversary of the massacre, education chiefs said today.

The late start on March 13 will mean pupils don't need to be in school at the fateful hour - 9.30 am - when gunman Thomas Hamilton shot dead 16 children and teacher Gwen Mayor.

Grieve

Bereaved families will also be able to visit the temporary memorial garden in the school grounds, which marks the site of the gym, demolished shortly after the tragedy.

But Stirling Council accepts some children may be kept at home that day as townsfolk deal with painful memories.

Locals have pleaded to be allowed to grieve in peace on March 13. The media will not be allowed in to either the primary school or Dunblane cemetery on that day.

FURY OVER LALLY'S ALLEY



UNDER FIRE
... Lord Provost Pat Lally is at centre of row over axing of community projects in Castlemilk

Lord Provost's £1.3m bowls plan blasted

GLASGOW Lord Provost Pat Lally is today at the centre of a furious row over the axing of vital Castlemilk community projects in favour of a bowling centre.

More than 40 jobs and 50

EXCLUSIVE
By LORRAINE HERBISON

nursery places are being chopped to save £700,000 a year from Castlemilk's Urban Aid allocation.

Incensed community workers

claim the cuts in the next two years will be used to fund "Lally's Alley" - a £1.3million indoor bowling centre - on Castlemilk Drive and Dougrie Road.

One high-profile activist has written to Tony Blair asking him to investigate the situation.

But today Provost Lally claimed

TURN TO PAGE 2

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DECISION DAY: As Britain goes to the polls, one boy tells how

£12m says Tories face a tanking

THE Tories face a real hammering in Scotland according to some real poll experts - the bookies!

Punters have staked an incredible £12MILLION in election bets.

Odds being offered on a totally Tory-free Scotland are now just 7-1, halved from last week's 14-1.

Bookies reckon Scots Secretary Michael Forsyth and President of the Board of Trade Ian Lang are the red-hot favourites for the chop.

Labour's Anne McGuire is 6-1 ON to oust Forsyth in Stirling, the same odds as the SNP are to kick out Lang.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Lord James Douglas Hamilton may also be voted out.

The Edinburgh Parliamentarians and Edinburgh West MPs are only joint favourites to hold on to what were once safe seats, while in Ayr Phil Gallie is such a dead cert to lose, bookies aren't taking bets.

When it comes to predicting election results, bookies are regarded by many as even more reliable than pollsters - because their livelihood depends on it.

If William Hill's election experts are right, Major's bungling party are set to disappear into a sea of red. They could be left with just THREE of Scotland's 72 seats.

"I don't think there will be a

By KEN OXLEY

lot of blue on the Scottish map this time tomorrow," said Hill's political expert, David Brown.

"A lot of people expected the Tories' chances to improve in the week before the election.

"But in Scotland, at least, things are looking even grimmer for them." Election betting has taken off across the UK and is set to break all previous records.

Bets are still being placed on individual seats and on the size of the winning majority.

But William Hill are refusing further bets on Labour being the largest single party.

Spokesman Graham Sharp says: "Labour are racing certainties. We cut their odds from 19 to 1-1, but now the book's closed."

Odds of the Tories being the biggest single party are being offered at 6-1 and 10-1 to win an overall majority.

Odds on other Scots marginals include - Aberdeen South: Lab 2-5, Con 7-4, Lib-Dem 8-1, SNP 100-1; Dumfries: Con 1-2, Lab 11-8, SNP 33-1, Lib-Dem 50-1; Glasgow Govan: Lab 2-3, SNP 11-4, Con 100-1, Lib-Dem 200-1; Gordon: Lib-Dem 2-5, Con 7-4, SNP 8-1, Lab 66-1; Ochil: Lab 5-6, SNP 5-6, Con 33-1, Lib-Dem 100-1; Tayside North: SNP 1-4, Con 5-2, Lab 66-1, Lib-Dem 100-1.

POLLING IT IN
... punters have put millions on the election

I don't think there will be a lot of blue on the map of Scotland



I IS too young to vote, but old enough to dream. Ryan Cassidy was 15 yesterday, and he wants to be a lawyer - just like his hero Tony Blair.

But he doesn't have any of the privileges the Labour leader had when he set out to follow his dream.

This youngster was born into poverty in a council flat in Glasgow's sprawling Castlemilk.

Years of Tory contempt for Scotland have created a huge pocket of misery where the have-nots seldom dare to dream.

BUT NOT RYAN.

Out of the mire, he has emerged a tenacious, clever young man - as capable and committed as any privately educated teenager.

Yesterday, the Record took him to meet his hero on a whistle-stop visit to Dumfries.

And the man who will be Prime Minister by tomorrow made a pledge to the Glasgow lad.

With his arm around the boy's shoulder, Tony Blair, who visited Castlemilk three years ago, told Ryan:

"Things will be different for you and others like you."

"We will build a country where everyone will have a chance - not just the few."

It was a moment that gave hope to the teenager raised in Europe's biggest housing scheme where too many youngsters have been swallowed up in a sub-culture of drugs and crime.

After meeting Blair, an inspired Ryan said: "I am more determined than ever. I was very nervous meeting Mr Blair at first, but he made me feel really relaxed, and I feel I can trust him to deliver what he says he'll deliver."

Spirit

Ryan's determination and spirit stand in defiance against the Tory cynics who wouldn't give the likes of Ryan the time of day.

He has taken his dream of being a lawyer home with him every day from the crumbling secondary school to his bedroom where he studies and works towards his goal.

Outside, drink and drugs may blot out the despair of poverty and unemployment for some.

But in Ryan's tiny bedroom education is his escape route.

Mum Margaret, a single parent, has done her best to steer Ryan away from the drugs and crime ravaging the area.

But on £72-a-week benefit they live well below the poverty line. Ryan's free school lunch is his main meal of the day. There is no pocket money and no luxuries.

In Castlemilk, where most people have ceased to dream, youngsters are not expected to aspire to become lawyers.

Indeed some may scoff at Ryan's ambition.

But they are wrong.

Still in third year, he has walked away with honours in English, History, Geography and Modern Studies.

His teachers in the run-down St Margaret Mary's Secondary, with its dilapi-

dated walls and leaking roof, are delighted with his progress.

Ryan is living proof that out of deprivation can come pride, honesty and the will to succeed.

A Labour government committed to "education, education and education", may find that there are lots of Ryans in areas where the people are written off as no-hopers.

Chance

All he asks is that he and others like him are given a chance to follow their dreams.

Ryan added: "People tend to attach some kind of stigma to you if you come from a place like Castlemilk. But it shouldn't be like that."

"Lots of people there have ambitions and I am going to be one of them who proves things can be different."

I JUST WANT TO BE LIKE TONY BLAIR

Don't let th

I WASN'T born when Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government first came to power. But as I have grown up I have seen our health and education systems plundered of vital resources.

I have seen senior citizens, low wage earners and the unemployed reduced to a state of meagre existence.

I have seen my own mother, who has a health problem, wait for months to be treated in hospital.

Stripped of our self-esteem, our dignity and, for many, even stripped of the necessities of life. But the

Ryan Cassidy is the threshold of Today, he writes the Record of his hopes and asks a government that will give youth a chance

one thing that no government can strip us of is defines our existence ability to think for ourselves.

It is this ability which the driving force behind many of us to achieve push on, to aspire to our parents and grandparents could only dream of.

And to finally claw way out of the quicks

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Closure threat sparks sit-in

COMMUNITY protest-
ers in Pollok have
become the latest
group to stage a sit-in
at a community hall
facing closure.

Sit-ins are being
staged across the city
as community activists
vow to fight the threat-
ened closures caused
by council cuts.

They have been
encouraged by the
Save our Services cam-
paign which was set up
last year by the
Scottish Socialist
Alliance.

Closure

This time supporters
of Ladymuir communi-
ty hall take a stand.

Management com-
mittee chairman
George McNeillage said
they would stay there
as long as they had to,
to prevent the closure
from going ahead.

And he vowed they
would not allow the
council to get in and
take equipment away.

Protesters slept in
the hall overnight fol-
lowing a public meet-
ing to discuss the situ-
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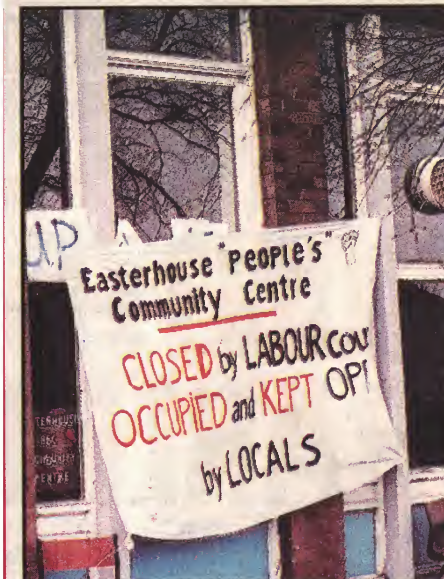
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OCCUPIED ... the scene of the angry sit-in

Protesters stage sit-in at centre

DEFIANT Easterhouse residents occupied their threatened community education centre today and pledged: "We shall not be moved."

The centre, which is used by 28 groups, is due to close tomorrow as part of the Glasgow City Council's massive cost-cutting programme.

But local families have moved in and say they will stay until council chiefs do a U-turn. Closure of the centre in Shandwick Street, which has been running for more than 20 years, will save around £57,000.

Activists leading the occupation, who refused to give their full names for fear of legal action from the council, slammed Labour leaders.

Betrayed

Frances said: "We are disgusted by the actions of the council.

"They should resign or resist the cuts from Central Government. They have betrayed our community.

"After May 1st there is likely to be a Labour Government with George Robertson in the Scottish Office.

By JIM GOUGH

"He could change funding priorities."

Diane added: "We don't know how the council can justify closure.

"There is nowhere else for the groups to go."

A Glasgow City Council spokesman said: "We understand residents' anger but we have been forced into this by the Government."

He said councillors will meet the protestors and will explore other means of funding the centre.

Mob Rule or Direct Action - A Reply to The City Council

Two weeks ago there was a protest at the City Chambers and an attempt to stop Glasgow Councillors from voting for a cuts budget. A number of Councillors complained of intimidation by the protestors. The Independent received the following letter from one of the groups involved.

Dear Sir,

I am the secretary of the East End Campaign Against the Cuts which consists of many elderly and disabled non-party constituted organisations who are affiliated to Save Our Services Campaign.

We proudly assisted in getting the community groups to occupy the City Chambers the night before and we made several statements to the press and media during and after the historic scenes of Red Monday, March 10 1997.

Knowing how thorough journalists are, not once in these interviews were we questioned about violence and if there was, many groups such as Equality All For One, Parents For The Mentally Handicapped East End and The Pensioner Action Group would have withdrawn their support immediately.

In all the television coverage and newspaper photos there is not one recording of people kicking or spitting on members of staff or councillors or haranguing pregnant women as described by the Depute Lord Provost, Alex Mosson. Where is his evidence?

I find Councillor Alex Mosson's shameful remarks to the press and media about allegedly picket line violence is totally inaccurate and offensively ignorant regards direct action taken by community groups and supported by Union members. Not once has he or Pat Lally of Bob Gould in their television interviews find it in their hearts to relate or understand the anger of their citizens. For centuries direct action is a

tactic that has brought real change in policies for people and is used as a last resort by groups when all other democratic means fails. In this case central government has forced unfair and damaging cuts in jobs and services, frontline services are now below the minimum standard required by law and the council are seen to be implementing them. They are flying against their own manifesto promises of no cuts in services and no compulsory redundancies.

Direct action is non-violent at all times by the participants. Of course there was angry scenes but no more than that especially when its about services and jobs being lost. If it at anytime had escalated into what Councillor Mosson describes, I am confident that our police would have sorted it out immediately.

The real truth is that it is Baillie Mosson and his cronies who are cynically spitting on our communities and all of them should resign. It can be construed that they are manipulating the police to turn against protesters at future demonstrations. It is clear that many of these councillors don't feel accountable.

It is an outrageous malicious statement that like his news views lack facts and conviction and when and when the history books judge the occupation and siege of the city Chambers, he and his other gutless comrades will be seen as the red clydeside councillors who turned yellow.

Larry Nugent,
Secretary East End Campaign Against the Cuts.

Voting with their feet



Brian Biggins: "There's no chance of voting changing anything. Elections distort realities."

BY ANY measure, Brian Biggins and Phil McPhee are intensely political animals. Brian's record of political activity dates back to the era when Clement Attlee occupied No 10. But the Glasgow-based duo haven't the slightest intention of entering a polling booth during the 1997 General Election. They will, however, campaign flat out during the election period — urging citizens not to vote for any party under any circumstances.

Messrs Biggins and McPhee — respectively, a retired printer and an unemployed care worker — can't afford to hire space on billboards and their uncompromising "don't vote" message certainly won't qualify them for a "party political broadcast".

In common with like-minded supporters in Dundee and Edinburgh, Glasgow's anti-election activists will proclaim their views via older methods. Clydeside's rich tradition of anarchist dissent, active since at least the nineteenth century, has a colourful history of soap-box oratory and radical pamphleteering.

Brian and Phil will literally and metaphorically take to the streets. Brian points out wryly that Scotland's non-party aligned radicals knew the value of soap boxes long before John Major took to a similar platform in the early 1990s.

Both men have been active trade unionists. They used to belong to the Labour Party — and abandoned it in the 1960s.

When Major puts it all up for grabs and the parties leap into a frenzy of electioneering, two men at least will ignore all blandishments. **Ian Sutherland** explains

They've dabbled with Trotskyism, the Communist Party and myriad other left-wing causes and campaigns. And they claim that that experience has made them utterly determined to avoid voting in elections — national or local.

In their view, non-voting is very far from negative "protest" action. Rather, they argue, abstaining from the polls is an affirmation of "alternatives" and a positive contribution to healthy self-organisation on the part of individuals and communities. As they prepare to distribute thousands of "don't vote" leaflets, Brian and Phil believe they — and not conventional politicians — are in tune with the modern world.

"Politicians don't change things," says Phil, "people do."

He says that abolition of the much-hated poll tax simply wouldn't have happened without direct action and refusal to pay. In similar vein, only so-called "people-power" brought down the Stalinist regimes of Eastern Europe.

Brian says: "People think that by electing someone to do a job for them, they'll get problems solved. That doesn't work. At best as with the 'red' Clydeside MPs who went to the 'Westminster Gasworks' in the 1920s, they

get seduced into the system. The Labour Government of 1945 certainly did many things, such as creating a Social Security system and the NHS, but that wasn't done to help ordinary people, it was to save capitalism.

"It wasn't the 1945 Government which changed things. It was the determination of millions of people, especially those serving in the armed forces, who

might take office but it won't take power."

He doesn't want it to take power in any event and in his view, the same goes for the SNP, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and any other contenders on the ballot papers.

"Actually," says Brian, "voting is a bit like playing the National Lottery. You hope your numbers' are going to turn up. It actually inhibits people from doing things for themselves. At least you've a chance of winning the lottery but there's no chance of voting changing anything. Elections distort realities."

Brian and Phil say their anarchist philosophy isn't impractical dreaming. They say they want communities to develop self-reliance and self-organisation. Since early adulthood, Brian has been a supporter of the Co-operative movement, which, he asserts, showed what ordinary people could do in terms of self-organisation in a thoroughly democratic manner — although it has declined in recent decades.

Messrs Biggins and McPhee also say they won't be deflected from their "abstentionist" position by the possibility of a Scottish parliament or assembly. That, for them, is simply Westminster in miniature. "Just another addition to bureau-

Real power doesn't lie with Parliament anyway

wanted real change in society."

Essentially, Scotland's non-voters say that citizens are invariably streets ahead of professional politicians in knowing what needs to be done, and rather than delegating power to politicians, ordinary citizens should act entirely on their own account. These campaigners say that "real" power doesn't lie with Parliament, anyway. "Power resides elsewhere," says Phil. "In the permanent state machine. So, the Labour Party

cracy," claims Brian. "It'll just be full of displaced regional councillors who didn't make it on to the new local authorities."

They also dismiss any hopes of achieving meaningful social change via new groups which have emerged as left-wing challengers to the Labour Party. In the 1960s, disillusioned with mainstream left-wing politics, both men joined various Trotskyist "groups" and just as quickly left them. "Trotskyist groups such as Militant carry within them their own totalitarian organisation," says Brian. "They're so tightly organised that activists even imitate the physical gestures of their leaders."

For Brian and Phil, the "real" election will take place in Scotland's communities, where people campaign for improved education, better transport, retention of heritage, or the development of sustainable and democratically controlled economic activity. That might mean individuals being elected to various offices. But, on their perspective as far as holding office is concerned, "everyone should take their turn."

Their anti-voting leaflets have a very simple message. "Investing anyone with authority is wrong. It's a cul-de-sac. Even the best people in the world can be put in and they'll be corrupted. And they add that the only thing that will deter them from proclaiming that challenging message on Scotland's street corners in the next few weeks will be the weather.

Picture: ANGELA CATLIN

VOICE OF THE TIMES

Forsyth's real test is to save Kvaerner

IN THE run-up to an election everything becomes a political issue.

Employment is now leaping back up the agenda.

GLASGOW AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS ARE SUFFERING A DEVASTATING CATALOGUE OF JOB LOSSES.

But the Prime Minister and Scottish Secretary stand accused of playing politics by delaying the announcement of over 4000 jobs until John Major arrives here on Friday.

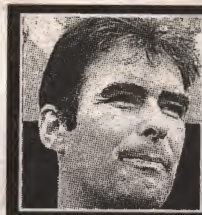
First Direct will bring at least 3000 call centre jobs to Lanarkshire.

A further 1000, as revealed by the Evening Times, will be created at a BT call centre in Glasgow.

WE KNOW THESE DEALS HAVE BEEN DONE AND ARE ONLY AWAITING THE POLITICAL GO-AHEAD TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Any new jobs will be welcome however they are revealed.

But the real test for Michael



By **TOMMY SHERIDAN**
Co-chair Scottish Socialist Alliance

THE Evening Times 'Save Our City' campaign has highlighted the financial crisis which threatens to bring Glasgow to its knees.

Since the start of last year, Michael 'Scissorhands' Forsyth has slashed funding to the city by £150m.

This works out at more than £500 plundered from every household in the city.

As the Evening Times revealed, basic services are now under threat. Teachers, home helps, even sheltered housing wardens - who provide a vital lifeline for the elderly - are to be sacked.

Low-paid library workers will have hours cut and wages slashed. Dozens of community centres face closure. One hundred and fifty local projects are threatened.

Function

Sports centres and youth facilities will close - many in areas already plagued by crime and hard drug abuse.

Pensioners groups, playgroups and women's groups will cease to function.

And, perhaps most callously of all, 110 disabled, blind and elderly groups could be forced to close because of the removal of free transport.

On local council budget day, March 6, I'll move an alternative 'Peoples' Budget' with the support of SNP councillor Kenny Gibson.

The second and third strongest parties in Glasgow, the SNP and Scottish Socialist Alliance (which includes Scottish Militant Labour) are now calling for defiance of the Tories.

Our alternative budget will demand there be no cuts, no closures, no redundancies, no attacks on workers' wages or conditions, no rent increases and no massive Council Tax increases.

Labour politicians, in contrast, claim there's no alternative except to surrender.

No doubt in a cynical exercise - designed to cover their own backs, councillors will argue for their own local facilities to remain open - and for everyone else's to close.

But, instead of squabbling and bickering over which facilities are to close, every councillor in Glasgow should

Stop Labour's axe falling

stand up in defence of our city against the Tory vandals.

Yes, a defiance budget would be technically illegal. But there are times when illegal action is necessary in order to achieve justice.

Sacked

Recently 103 workers at the Glacier factory in Glasgow's south-side occupied their factory illegally after being sacked. Five weeks later all 103 were re-instated.

Should these workers have meekly accepted the right of an employer to destroy their livelihoods - or were they justified in taking illegal action in pursuit of justice?

And should Glasgow City Council meekly accept the right of a dictatorial government to destroy 2000 jobs and hundreds of community facilities - or should the council stand up for the people who elected them?

Some Labour fainthearts have offered the excuse that a defiance budget would lead to Michael Forsyth sacking the council and sending in unelected commissioners.

This is sheer scaremon-

FIRST PERSON

VICTORS.. workers at the Glacier precision engineering factory won their jobs back after occupying their factory in protest



gering. This government is tottering on its last legs. At the last council elections, the Tories won just six per cent of the vote in Glasgow.

The idea that this crumbling government could sack the elected council of the biggest city in Scotland is as credible as the X Files.

The cuts threatened by Glasgow City Council are not about trimming off a little fat. They're about cutting services to the bone; destroying thousands of jobs in a city branded the 'Poverty Capital of Europe.'

Risk

And, if they're allowed to go ahead, they'll put at risk the lives of hundreds of our most vulnerable citizens.

The Labour Party nationally will fight the General Election under the slogan "Enough is Enough!"

After 18 years of Tory vandalism, and faced with this new blitz, Glasgow City Council must now say to Michael Forsyth: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Labour targets top secret files

by David Milne

TOP secret tax records could be breached in a Labour plan to hunt down poll tax dodgers.

In a shock move, Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson has offered to grant cash-strapped local authorities access to the previously confidential Inland Revenue records.

Robertson's offer would let councils track down debtors and freeze their wages until the tax arrears are paid. The total debts run to hundreds of millions of pounds with many dating back eight years.

The safeguards protecting the top secret tax records would have to be breached if Labour gained

power at the forthcoming general election.

The records have never been opened before and their confidentiality is ensured by law. Even other Government departments are denied access to the highly sensitive files.

The records hold details of the population's income. They contain everything from information on wages to accounts of work bonuses and money received from gifts and inheritances.

Robertson's suggestion has shocked civil liberties groups who view the proposals as dangerous.

John Scott, Scottish Council for Civil Liberties spokesman, fears the moves are ripe for abuse.

"It is astonishing that Labour

would suggest such a proposal and we are extremely disappointed," he said.

"People supply information to the Inland Revenue on the strict understanding that it will remain confidential. If local authorities had access to these records the scope for abuse would be enormous."

Lynn Simpson, Inland Revenue spokeswoman, said the law would have to be changed before the records were offered to local authorities.

She said: "This is very personal information and everyone at the Inland Revenue has to sign that they will not breach that confidentiality. People are entitled to complete privacy in relation to their tax records."

But the move has the support of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) which says it is essential that local authorities recoup the vast sums owed to them.

Keith Geddes, COSLA chief, said: "Local authorities were very much against the poll tax, but council services have to be paid for and vast amounts of money remain uncollected and people have a duty to pay. This proposal is a last resort."

A spokesman at George Robertson's office said the proposal was not a concrete Labour policy. "It is problematic and it may raise questions about civil liberties. But something has to be done to help cash-strapped local authorities," he added.

FURY OVER CITY CUTS

FROM PAGE 1

Militant councillor Tommy Sheridan, who played a central role in last week's demo, said today: "We are now in a General Election period.

"Labour in Scotland has called the cuts in Glasgow a disaster.

"Surely now the councillors must refuse to implement the cuts pending the outcome of the election.

"To carry out these brutal cuts now would be a cowardly betrayal of the people of Glasgow, a betrayal the councillors will not be forgiven for."

The campaigners have

drawn up a battle plan for further action.

Their rallying cry calls on everyone who faces the closure of community centres, swimming pools, libraries, and the loss of jobs and other vital services to lay siege to buildings.

Action

Dozens of sit-ins have already been organised.

But organisers are refusing to reveal details of their action plan just now.

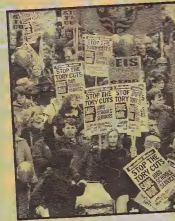
However, they have planned a massive 24-hour vigil outside the City Chambers, starting

on Wednesday, April 2, and ending at 4pm on April 3, the day the City Council is next due to meet.

Communities have been urged to send reps to sleep out overnight.

Meanwhile, the organisers of last week's protest are trying to free one of the demonstrators who was arrested during the protests and refused bail.

Tommy Sheridan has sent Tam Dymond, who is in Barlinnie Prison, a letter of support saying his only crime was to enter a public building.



New claim rocks city

A NEW scandal claim rocked troubled Glasgow City Council today.

Union leader Martin Doran claimed councillors have been warned not to attend a protest rally against 2000 job cuts - or their political careers will be ended.

The *Evening Times* has been given the names of councillors who were warned off. This new revelation comes two days after the *Evening Times* revealed that Labour leader Bob

By VIC RODRICK

Gould had been asked to give free trips to councillors in return for their support.

Mr Doran, head of the GMB, the manual workers' union, alleged several councillors had been "bribed" about the union protest rally on February 13.

He said every Glasgow City councillor had been invited to the conference to discuss with staff organisations the threat to jobs and services

posed by the Government's spending curbs. He said: "It will be a frank meeting to find ways of tackling the funding crisis in Glasgow. But our branches have been telling us that a senior Labour group member has made overtures to a number of senior councillors."

"He has threatened them that their careers will stop forthwith under any new leadership if they are seen to be actively aligning themselves to a trade union with more than 10,000 members."

"Our membership is appalled at the suggestion that political patronage is being used to pressure elected members who are concerned about the job security of the council's workforce."

Balance

The GMB represents workers such as school cleaners, catering staff and home helps, many of them in jobs put at risk by the £80m cuts forced on Glasgow.

Council leaders estimate up to 2000 redundancies may be needed to balance the budget - 800 job cuts have already been approved.

Mr Doran said the city's Labour administration was looking for the support of the trade unions to find a constructive way forward but the councillors had to offer political stability first.

Concerned

He added: "I am very concerned at the serious allegations which have been reported back to me and will be carrying out a full investigation to find out if they are true."

Meanwhile, an inquiry into the "votes for junkets" scandal by Labour's Scottish Secretary Jack McConnell has put the issue on the back burner by deciding to take evidence from all concerned.

● Voice of the Times

- Page 8

● We're a special case - Page 9

'Junkets' probe call

TORY MPs today demanded a double probe into Glasgow City Council's "votes for junkets" claim. The move came in a Commons motion by North Tayside MP Bill Walker.

He called on Ministers to refer the allegations to both the Audit Commission and Lord Nolan's committee currently investigating local government "sleaze".

TORIES COP OUT OF £1½m BILL

By HUGH BOAG

THE Scottish Conservative Party are refusing to pay Glasgow cops for protecting them.

A massive £500,000 bill for the Party conference in 1995 is still unpaid despite demands for payment.

The matter is now in the hands of lawyers.

The Tories have rejected cash-strapped Chief Constable John Orr's demand for payment.

Today Scots Tory chairman Sir Michael Hirst admitted he has "sympathy" for the force.

Wrangle

But Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson slammed the Tory "hypocrisy".

And he vowed to raise the matter of unpaid Tory bills in the Commons next week.

The wrangle follows the Scottish Conservative Party Conference in May 1995, which was attended by eight cabinet ministers, including John Major.

Security at all Tory conferences has been massive since the Brighton bombing in 1984.

And a huge operation was mounted for the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Row over conference cost

we had no control, was met by the Metropolitan Police and the Strathclyde force.

"Unfortunately, this conference did not meet the Home office criteria for financial support."

The Home Office pays the policing costs of all the National party conferences.

Strathclyde Police Board Convener councillor Bill Timoney said "I'm very worried about this news. Strathclyde Police provided the security, there's no doubt about that - so the bill should be paid."

And George Robertson blasted: "It is the worst kind of humbug from a party which is assailing local government throughout Scotland, and which pretends to be the party of law and order."

"It leaves the bill behind for local taxpayers to pick up. It is grotesque hypocrisy."

Sympathise

Scotts Conservative Party Chairman Sir Michael Hirst said today: "I understand perfectly well the Strathclyde Police argument, which I sympathise with."

"However, we paid for the security within the halls. The external security, over which

authorities last year just to keep their heads above water.

There are worries they will have to ask for another cash boost in the next financial year.

The Tory Party have paid for policing inside the Glasgow Concert Hall, but won't pay the bill they were sent by Strathclyde Police for the security operation outside.

Large numbers of police officers had to check sewers, post boxes and bins for any suspect packages before sealing them off.

The Metropolitan police and the security forces were also involved.

The bill is thought to run to over £500,000.

Grampian Police were hit with a bill for £700,000 when the Tories went to Aberdeen last year.

After warning the force faced bankruptcy, the Scottish Office gave them a "special grant" of £154,000.

Strathclyde Police had to beg an extra £2million from the new unitary

MICHAEL HIRST... has sympathy for the force



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WEATHER

RAIN, THEN DRY LATER

WAX TEMP

TONIGHT: Showers dying out with all parts becoming dry with clear periods. Fresh westerly wind. Minimum temperature 10 (34°F).

TOMORROW: Dry bright start, but cloudy, wet weather arriving during the day. Becoming milder. Strong southwest winds.

OUTLOOK FOR SUNDAY: Staying mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Remaining mild with strong southwest winds.

ENGLAND TOMORROW: A few showers in the north, otherwise mainly dry with sunny spells.

HIGH TIDE AT GREENOCK: 12.19 pm

SEA: 0 calm, 1 slight, 2 moderate, 3 rough, 4 very rough

THE MET. OFFICE

Location	Temp	Weather
Belfast	14	Sunny
Chapman	05	Fair
Corfu	13	Fair
Faro	17	Sunny
Genoa	05	Sunny
Gibraltar	16	Fair
Majorca	15	Sunny
Paris	08	Sunny
Tenerife	21	Cloudy
Valencia	11	Sunny
Geneva	10	Cloudy
Edinburgh	10	Cloudy
Aberdeen	08	Cloudy
Blackpool	10	Bright
London	09	Rain
Newcastle	10	Cloudy

Teachers' show of force plea

SECONDARY school teachers are appealing for a major show of force in protest against the deepening education crisis.

David Eaglesham, general secretary of the Scottish Secondary Teachers Association, said tomorrow's march and rally in Glasgow will provide the ideal opportunity to send a clear message to Michael Forsyth.

He said: "I appeal to all parents, schoolboards, PTAs and community groups to join in."

Reduce "The crisis facing schools in coming months is on a scale never seen before in Scotland."

"The plans to increase class sizes, cut out valuable services and teaching jobs through redundancies will all combine to reduce the quality of Scottish education."

The protest will be attended by teachers, parents and trade unionists from all over Scotland.

Marchers will gather at 10.30 am at Blythswood Square. The rally ends at the City Halls in Candleriggs.

BRIDGE MOVE

AN ANCIENT bridge is to be restored to improve access to a country park.

South Lanarkshire Council has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to help upgrade the medieval Old Avon Bridge near Hamilton's Chateaufort estate.

Election quiz over homeless

A HUGE lobby of parliamentary candidates is to take place before the general election.

Organised by the Churches National Housing Coalition, it will address homelessness.

CNHO President, Bishop John Gladwin said: "We believe this will be the biggest ever pre-election lobbying exercise."

"It's crucial both for the many thousands of families and individuals directly affected and for the future health of society."

The initiative is also being supported by many other clergy as well as the Scottish Churches Housing Agency and the Big Issue.

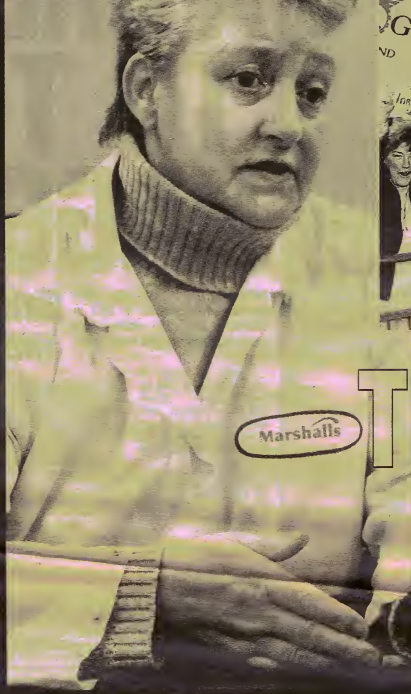
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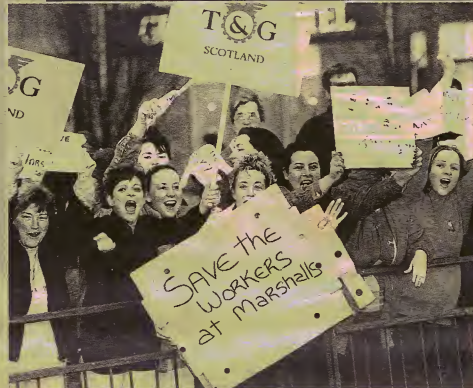
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CONFIDENT ... union convener Anna Dawson, fighting for 800 Chunky Chicken jobs, says: "We will win" Picture: JOHN MCCARROLL



SPOTLIGHT ON WOMAN



FIGHTING HARD ... the workers protest over the threat to their jobs

THE GRITTY BATTLING 800 JOBS

BATTLE lines are being drawn for a fight to the finish over nearly 800 threatened jobs at the Marshalls Chunky Chicken factory.

In the front trench will be little grey-haired granny and union convener Anna Dawson.

Millionaire Scots businessman Wilson Marshall (49) announced two weeks ago that the Coatbridge processing plant would close in April, claiming it made losses of £7million a year.

He said production would be switched to other plants at Newbridge, near Edinburgh, and Wales.

But the 782 staff who face the threat of the dole are putting their faith in Anna.

Tragedy And she is determined not to let them down. She confidently says: "We will win."

Anna (54) knows the stakes are high. Family and friends have already been hit by personal disaster since the closure announcement.

One man's house sale went through on the day the closure was announced.

A woman colleague had secured a £50,000 mortgage but had to sell her car.

Closure would be a double

She's 5ft 2in and mum of four, but Anna's fighting for a whole area's future

SPECIAL REPORT By GORDON THOMSON

tragedy for another woman worker. Her sister died and she is looking after her children.

So Anna is aware of the pain and the financial hardship that will be endured by workers if their fight with the

Marshalls Food Group tycoon fails.

Says Anna: "We are going all out to win this campaign. I have no thoughts of losing. There is too much at stake."

"This is not just about the workers. We must win for the community in Coatbridge and throughout Lanarkshire."

"Someone has to spell out our case, so I simply speak from the heart. It is the only way I know how."

"We know the plant is making huge losses, but we have a good general manager here. I believe he is the best in Scotland's poultry industry and I am sure he can turn it round."

She says the company is good to work for, wages and conditions are good and boss Wilson Marshall has strived for the good of the firm.

"He has done nothing derogatory towards the workforce," says Anna.

But the tycoon is bracing himself for a bruising battle.

Indulge Anna also refuses to turn her back on the teenagers and those in their early 20s, who make up most of the workforce.

"There is nothing for these young people if this place closes," says Anna. "We have to save their jobs."

She is an ordinary granny who does not indulge in fire-and-brimstone rhetoric all too often associated with union officials.

But she has never been afraid to speak her mind.

Anna has worked at Marshalls for 14 years after successfully applying for a temporary post.

The 782 workers facing the axe include three of her four sons, as well as the husband of one of her nieces. Another has a fiancé employed there.

Then there are the 30 couples who work shoulder to shoulder to pay off mortgages and other bills.

There is also a lot at stake for Linda (39) and her husband John. Both work at the plant, which was opened more than 20 years ago.

"It will be a financial disaster if we lose our jobs," admits the mum-of-one.

Anna is a reluctant headline maker and hates seeing herself on television. Last week she went to the House of Commons to meet local

That is why shop stewards urged her eight years ago to take on the role of works convener.

Anna was not even a shop steward then and was stunned when her colleagues asked her.

But she accepted the invitation and in her spare time went to college to learn trade unionism.

Shop stewardess Linda Ralston says: "If anyone can save our jobs it is Anna."

She is one lady with a lot of backbone who will speak

her mind, even to the directors.

"Anna has a lot of determination and will see an issue through to the end - that's her style."

THERE is also a lot at stake for Linda (39) and her husband John. Both work at the plant, which was opened more than 20 years ago.

"It will be a financial disaster if we lose our jobs," admits the mum-of-one.

Anna is a reluctant headline maker and hates seeing herself on television. Last week she went to the House of Commons to meet local

workers also paid the hefty price of wholesale job losses.

afraid to speak her mind.

OUT TO SAVE CHICKEN FACTORY



BOSS ... Wilson Marshall faces a battle to shut down his processing plant in Coatbridge

GRAN WHO'S TO RESCUE

“They had to get me out the toilet to speak to the press...I was scared”

“I speak simply from the heart... it's the only way I know”

Labour MPs Tom Clarke and Helen Liddell.

She also had a chat with Scots Secretary Michael Forsyth—and has nothing but praise for him.

“Forget what you have heard about him,” says Anna. “He was polite and courteous and promised action.”

“He is often accused of being slow off the mark. But industry Minister George Kynoch was sent to the plant the next day.”

ANNA is often embarrassed at the attention she generates among journalists seeking the latest news and the workforce reaction.

“They had to get me out of the toilet to speak to the media on the day of the closure announcement,” she confesses.

“I was scared. Now I have learned to cope.”

But time is running out for Anna. Production at the factory is scheduled to stop on April 11.

It will be a black Friday for workers and the Coatbridge community if the axe falls.

But Anna says: “Wilson Marshall knows me and realises he has a fight on his hands.”

High “I am confident we can win and we will battle until we do.”

But the question has to be asked: What if the unthinkable happens?

Says Anna: “We will walk out of the factory with our heads held high.”

LOT AT STAKE ... shop stewardess Linda Ralston

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Wednesday 19, February
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25	11	47	5	22		

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TEACHERS TO STRIKE OVER CUTS

By LORRAINE HERBISON
THOUSANDS of teachers across Glasgow are to strike on March 5 after a massive vote in favour of industrial action.

The city's schools seem set to shut after teachers voted overwhelmingly to strike in protest at proposed education cuts and jobs losses.

A total of 82 per cent were in favour of industrial action - but that could be just the start of it.

Teaching union the EIS, whose members face the loss of 300 jobs and funding cuts of 16 per cent over two years, say they will take further action if necessary.

It all depends on Glasgow City Council's final budget decisions.

Backed
Gill Mackay, chairwoman of Glasgow EIS, said: "This was an overwhelming vote in favour of education and against the cuts and shows the determination of teachers to fight for the city's future."

The EIS is appealing to the council to withdraw the threat of compulsory redundancies and begin reversing the savage cuts of the last two years.

Gill Mackay said there is no way teachers can introduce curriculum changes such as "5-14" and "Higher Still" if the cuts go ahead.

Safety
She added: "Such developments cannot and will not be implemented on the backs of teachers. If there are cuts in funding there can be no new developments."

Glasgow EIS is being supported by the EIS nationally and further talks about more action will take place after March 5. Ian McDonald, Glasgow City Council's deputy director of education, said: "We will make as full a provision as possible for the children, paying close attention to health and safety issues, because we anticipate a large number of teachers will be taking part in the industrial action."

●Voice of the Times
- Page 8

Anger at moves to axe 300 jobs



PLAYING FOR JERSEY

SCOTLAND dreams are made of this - as young Ben McGregor hopes to fill the jersey. Meantime, he's got to be content with trying on his dad's new strip for size. The all-yellow Scotland away outfit hit the stores today. Ben and his dad moved quickly to get along to Allsports in Glasgow city centre to buy the strip, retailing at £29.99 and £39.99.

Cardinal in abortion bias blast

CARDINAL Thomas Winning has accused BBC bosses of bias against the Catholic Church.

The leader of Scotland's Catholics made his claim in an angry letter to director general John Birt.

He was furious at last night's Frontline Scotland programme which claimed a majority of Catholics believed women should have the

right to choose to have an abortion.

The Cardinal protested that only 400 Catholics had been asked and the word abortion had not been used.

They were asked if they would back politicians who "supported a woman's right to choose".

Job fight settled

THE ex-assistant manager of St Mirren Football Club has settled his job loss fight.

Kenny McDowall, of Milngavie, was to claim he was unfairly dismissed from the Paisley club, but a Glasgow industrial tribunal heard today the matter had been settled. No details were given.

COUNCILS IN CRISIS ... COUNCILS IN CRISIS ... COUNCILS IN CRISIS

Festival funding slashed by £52,000



GLASGOW'S prestigious Mayfest has had its grant slashed by cash-strapped city councillors.

Festival organisers have been told they'll get 10 per cent less money this year - a cut of more than £52,000.

Glasgow City Council is having to trim £80million due to Government cash cuts. And Mayfest chiefs have been warned that public subsidy for future years will be given careful examination as part of the council's review of its funding crisis.

Chief executive John Anderson said any major

change in funding could put the 1997 event in jeopardy.

Changes

He said: "By January Mayfest has entered into commitments for the next festival and fundamental changes could only be made realistically over a longer period

without causing immediate crises for the company."

However, he recommended that, as a condition of getting £468,450 of council cash, a review should be carried out into the nature, scale and funding of the Mayfest event for future years.

It will start as soon as possible and be completed not later than August 1.

Mayfest spokesman Marek Kolodziej said, given the financial crisis, they regarded the cut as "an inevitability". It's possible that Mayfest will apply to councils surrounding Glasgow for help with funding in future years.

CITY PLEA TO LABOUR
OVER CUTS
TALKS

Chancellor Gordon Brown.

They want him and Shadow Scots Secretary George Robertson to get a special briefing on Glasgow's £80million cuts crisis.

The city has to slash that amount from its budget because of Government curbs on spending.

The move follows a speech by Mr Robertson in which he warned there was no "pot of gold" for Labour councils in the event of a Labour government being elected.

Senior

That provoked a worried reaction from senior city politicians at a meeting of Glasgow's ruling Labour group.

Govan MP Ian Davidson said he supported the call for a meeting with the Labour leadership because Glasgow's problems had a knock-on effect for the whole of Scotland.

He added: "Labour's slogan - fairness not favours - is exactly what Glasgow's looking for."

And group leader Bob Gould said he'd press Glasgow's Labour MPs to arrange the meeting as soon as possible.



By VIC RODRICK
Local Government Reporter

He said Mr Robertson's statement had come out of the blue, without any consultation with cash-strapped councils affected directly.

Forecasts

He added: "We'll look for a meeting with Mr Robertson and Gordon Brown to explain the city's predicament."

"Former Scots Secretary Ian Lang stood up in

Parliament and denied forecasts that 20,000 would leave local government as a result of his reforms. That's us at 15,000 and the figure's rising."

He said Glasgow would also seek an urgent meeting with Scots Secretary Michael Forsyth in a last-ditch bid to release more resources for the city, which faces the prospect of axing up to 2000 jobs -

but still putting up Council Tax by almost 30 per cent.

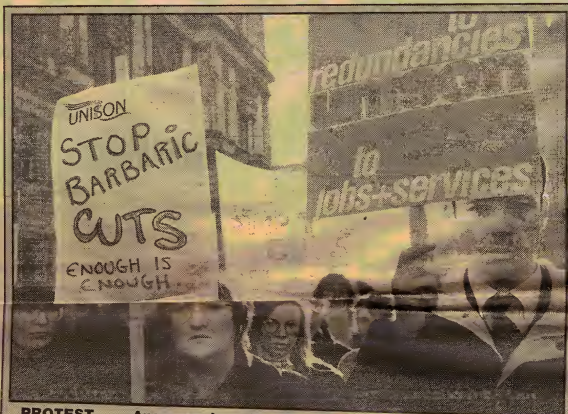
Meanwhile, Mr Brown has pledged to slash VAT on home fuel in the first Budget of an incoming Labour government.

Rises

The rate will be cut from eight to five per cent as a first step.

It follows his announcement that there will be no increase in either the basic or top rate of income tax in the first five years of a new administration.

But Mr Brown accepts he cannot rule out rises in some indirect taxation, which could involve a reduction in mortgage interest relief.



PROTEST ... Angry workers line up outside Glasgow City Chambers

Angry staff
in jobs demo

SCORES of demonstrators staged a mass protest outside Glasgow City Chambers - a clear expression of the anger of workers whose jobs are on the line.

The City Council and other cash-strapped local authorities are wrestling with budgets put under immense pressure by government spending curbs.

For the first time in their history, they will have to make thousands of staff compulsorily redundant.

But scenes like this are likely to be repeated even if Labour wins the General Election this spring.

Party leaders have warned the unions that councils must keep to the Tory capping limits.

There will be no extra cash.

Meanwhile, furious parents will fight to save a special school, St Vincent's School, for the deaf and blind at Tollcross is in danger of being closed under a controversial plan.

Cash call
to help
drive for
devolution

By ROBERT TAIT
CAMPAIGNERS for a Scottish parliament were today told to start a big fund-raising drive to help sell the idea to the nation.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention, the cross-party group which has designed the parliament blueprint, says it needs up to £150,000 to launch a hearts-and-minds campaign to win over the Scottish people.

Power

The call to help raise money was made by Glasgow businessman Nigel Smith at a meeting of the Convention's co-ordinating committee.

Mr Smith will organise the campaign, which will be aimed at getting the devolution message across up until the General Election and then during the build-up to Labour's planned referendum on the parliament if it wins power.

Ideas

The Convention's ruling executive will meet on Friday to decide details.

Mr Smith said: "It will take between £100,000 and £150,000 so we can employ people on a full-time basis."

All the ideas are there but people need to stump up the money.

"Too often in Scotland we ruin ourselves by leaping ahead of reality. We plan to do things the other way, by building up the campaign first and then announcing it."

BLAIR'S MESSAGE - PAGE 4

TORY JOBS FIDDLE - PAGE 7

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WEATHER

TONIGHT: Staying dry with clear periods and sharp frost. Southerly breeze with a few fog patches likely. Minimum temperature -4°C (25°F).

TOMORROW: Staying dry with sunny spells. Any fog patches clearing slowly. More cloudy in the west. Brisk southerly winds. **OUTLOOK FOR THURSDAY:** Still mainly dry but rather cloudy. Temperatures on the cold side.

ENGLAND TOMORROW: Rain edging up across Southern England but still mainly dry in the North.

HIGH TIDE AT GREENOCK: 11.46pm

DRY WITH CLEAR PERIODS



TEMP

Bristol	13	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	Cloudy
Edinburgh	11	Sunny
Glasgow	12	Sunny
London	11	Rain
Manchester	10	Sunny
Newcastle	11	Rain
Nottingham	10	Sunny
Sheffield	10	Sunny
Southampton	11	Rain
Stirling	10	Sunny
Wolverhampton	11	Rain
York	10	Sunny

FAST NEWS

Mercy death case ruling

A SEVERELY brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die, High Court judge ruled yesterday.

The judge said the 29-year-old was suffering a "living death" and the time had come for "merciful relief", although there had been a dispute over whether the woman was suffering from Permanent Vegetative State as she still responds to some stimuli.

Mum is jailed

A WOMAN who preyed on frail and helpless women pensioners and stole their money was jailed for 18 months yesterday.

Mum-of-six Margaret MacDonald (38) of Carseview, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, was also ordered to repay £900 to her five victims at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

Lotto court bid

NATIONAL Lottery organisers Camelot have launched a fresh High Court bid to crush 49, a lottery-style game in betting shops.

Camelot claims the 49s scheme is an "unlawful lottery" which is likely to inflict losses on its own funds and the good causes it supports.

Billie-Jo tribute

HUNDREDS of pupils paid an emotional tribute to murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins at a memorial service yesterday.

Her foster father Sion Jenkins has been charged with murder.

Pair arrested

DETECTIVES investigating the death of 40-year-old Colin Fraser have arrested two men.

A 23-year-old man from East Kilbride and a 51-year-old man from Glasgow are expected to appear at Hamilton Sheriff Court on Monday.

Caledonian moves

SCOTTISH Television announced last night that Iain Forbes, Managing Director, and Graeme Bell, Finance Director of Caledonian Newspapers, are to leave the company following a management reorganisation.

Scottish Television said that the move was consistent with their plans announced at the time of the acquisition to reduce management levels and integrate Caledonian with its television interests.

Scottish Television Chief Executive Andrew Flanagan said: "This is a further step in developing a flatter organisation structure and takes us to the next phase of integrating our television and newspaper businesses. Iain and Graeme's departures were amicable and we thank them for their years of good service."

Mr Flanagan continues as Chief Executive of Caledonian.

3 killed by bomb

ISRAELI police have confirmed the death toll from the suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv as three, including the attacker.

The Palestinian fanatic attacked a coffee shop packed with families celebrating over Israel's decision to build a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.



AN Israeli soldier on fire after an attack by Palestinian youths

Clinton, Yeltsin nuke deal

AMERICAN President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin last night agreed to a new round of arms-reduction negotiations designed to dramatically reduce nuclear stockpiles.

The pact sets a Start II warhead limit of 3500 on each side, down from pre-treaty levels of about 8000. It calls for elimination by 2003 of land-based nuclear weapons with multiple warheads, which would strip Russia of its

SS-18, the most powerful weapon in its arsenal.

The two presidents met in Helsinki, Finland, and Mr Clinton said the agreement on "guidelines" for Start III negotiations has the goal of reducing strategic warhead stockpiles for both countries to 2000 to 2500.

But the two Presidents failed to reach agreement on the planned expansion of NATO to include former Soviet states.

75 PROJECTS ESCAPE AXE

By LORNA MacLAREN

WOMEN yesterday celebrated the news that a vital community centre is to stay open after a council U-turn.

The four-year-old Maryhill Women's Centre was under threat from the controversial council cuts.

But instead, it has been granted £30,000.

The Maryhill centre was joined by another 74 threatened community projects which were relieved as council bosses ditched a U-turn.

Delight

But 21 other projects will still close and 73 jobs will go as Glasgow struggles to meet budget cuts.

Social strategy chiefs agreed to scrap 21 community projects – despite earlier fears that up to 100 could close in the latest round of cost-cutting.

At Maryhill, women of all ages gathered at the centre, which provides advice, work training and creche facilities, to voice their delight at the news.

Local mum Ann O'Donnell (37) said the support and advice she received there saved her from depression.

"I had a hysterectomy last year and was more or less stuck in the house with my two kids. My husband was in nightshift and my isolation was making me depressed."

Dancing

"After going to the centre I found people I could talk to and share my feelings with. It made such a difference."

Jean Greig, centre administrator, added her delight. "We were dancing when we heard of the cash coming in," she said.

This place has saved women's lives. We have people coming to us who have suffered sexual and

physical abuse who have no-one else to turn to. They know it is a women-only building and that makes them feel safe."

Another project celebrating was Quarriers Home Life Project based in Drumchapel.

This scheme supports people with learning difficulties who are striving to look after themselves in their own or adapted accommodation.

Gerald Lee, director of Quarriers, said: "We are

delighted Home Life will be able to continue."

Councillor Jean McFadden, chair of the Social Strategy Committee said a last minute review and emergency accounting had cut the hit list.

Dancing

Scores of police officers surrounded the City Chambers as the meeting went ahead.

Among the projects that will close in the move to save £5m are the

East End Drugs Initiative and the Shettleston Resource Complex.

Councillor McFadden said local councillors had presented their own packages of cost-cutting which had reduced the total number of projects to close.

She said: "As a result, the decision taken will mean that only 21 projects will close and the total number of job losses is reckoned to be 73."



Pictures: MARTIN SHIELDS

Council U-turn on cuts

POLICE ENSURE NO CITY CHAOS

STRATHCLYDE Police maintained a strong presence in George Square and around the City Chambers yesterday.

But in contrast to last week's chaotic scenes, there was just one gathering of protesters. Around 150 marchers quietly set off from George Square for a rally in the Mitchell Theatre in Charing Cross.

The protest was organised by the housing association branch of the transport workers' union.

Speakers at the rally included Labour Hillhead MP George Galloway and SNP's Perth and Kinross MP Roseanna Cunningham.

CIGS ADMISSION DELIGHTS SCOTS WIDOW

By MICHAEL TIERNEY

A SCOTS widow who is suing the Imperial Tobacco Company last night said she was "delighted" after an American firm admitted tobacco is addictive.

Mrs Margaret McTear, from Beith, Ayrshire, said: "This is something we have been waiting a long time for."

Mrs McTear is taking Imperial Tobacco to court after her husband, Alfred, died three years ago from lung cancer, allegedly caused by smoking.

She claims the company was aware cigarettes could be harmful long before warnings were carried on packets.

Yesterday the Liggett Group admitted cigarettes cause cancer and are addictive, ending decades of denials from tobacco firms of the health risks posed by their products.

Liggett agreed to pay 22 American states 25 per cent of its pre-tax profits for the next

25 years to settle lawsuits aimed at recouping the health-care costs of treating people with smoking-related illnesses.

Mrs McTear's lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, said: "The two points we require to prove our case have been admitted by Liggett."

Some 23 British smokers have issued writs against UK tobacco companies Imperial Tobacco and Gallaghers for allegedly failing to phase out tar from cigarettes when the risks apparently became clear in the 1950s.

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Mrs Margaret McTear and husband Alfred in 1993

UNIONS CLASH ON PICKET LINE

By LEONA YOUNG

CITY council pickets today clashed with members of another local government union outside its national conference in the Mitchell Theatre.

Officials of UNISON - striking today in protest at Glasgow's planned job cuts - accused members of the General and Municipal Workers Union of crossing their picket line.

William Harris, a convener with

UNISON, claimed GMB delegates insisted on entering the building.

But Mick Fisher, a GMB national officer, denied there had been a row and claimed lay delegates had simply gone into the conference hall to collect their belongings. He met UNISON

officials and agreed to postpone the annual conference - which is debating the crisis facing the public sector.

William Harris said: "We are all fighting the same cause and we were surprised when some of them insisted on going through. There were some heated exchanges".

But Mick Fisher denied a row had flared between the two unions. He

said: "We don't cross picket lines. There were no arguments. Some of our members had to collect belongings from the hall."

But, speaking with one voice, the council workers vowed to fight the cuts which threaten to "rip the heart out of the city".

And union officials warned that today's strike is just the beginning.

Four held in cash cuts storm

FOUR protesters, including a councillor's wife, were arrested today during angry scenes as Renfrewshire Council met in Paisley to discuss budget cuts.

They included Caroline Martin, wife of SNP councillor Bill Martin.

Refused

Another protester who was handcuffed and led out of the civic centre was Dave Paterson, a volunteer worker at the Cherry Centre in Renfrew.

He had refused to give his name and address to police, who had been called to the council chamber by David Nancy Allison.

However, he had remained silent as members of a committee opposed to proposed cuts repeatedly interrupted councillors by shouting demands not to slash services.

Police were called before the meeting started when nine campaigners occupied seats for councillors and refused to move.

Interrupted

They were escorted to empty seats in the public gallery.

But police had to be called again when protesters repeatedly interrupted council leader Hugh Henry as he tried to make a speech.

The meeting was adjourned until police cleared the public gallery and was delayed even further when the Provost was forced to give a statement to police officers.

The stormy scenes erupted as the ruling Labour administration tried to push through budget cuts of up to £10million, which includes a six per cent Council Tax rise.

SUSPECTS FREED IN COURT CHAOS

Cases collapse after strike

COURT chaos in Glasgow today saw dozens of accused people walk free thanks to strike action.

Many will now avoid prosecution for offences which Strathclyde Police have deliberately targeted in its high-profile crime crackdown.

Glasgow District Court, the busiest in Scotland, was closed because of a strike by clerical staff. As a result more than 50 cases have collapsed without trial.

Several are now time barred, which means the accused will escape prosecution.

Anger

People turning up for trial today at the St Andrew's Street court-house were met by a sign saying that business had been cancelled for the day because of strike action.

Initial anger at having forked out travelling expenses evaporated when lawyers told their clients: "Charges against you will be dropped."

The accused trooped off in delight.

Catherine O'Hare (27), from Glenboig, had been

due to face a breach of the peace charge.

She said: "At first I was angry when I thought I had come all the way for nothing, and out of pocket, too."

"But now I know what has happened, I am over the moon. I was facing a heavy fine."

One legal expert said: "There will be some happy people in Glasgow who were due in court

and have now escaped prosecution."

The chaos was caused by court clerks and office staff taking part in a strike by local government union Unison in protest over job cuts within Glasgow City Council.

Offences

Eight courts were closed by the one-day action, as well as the fines and clerk's office near the Saltmarket.

Glasgow District Court deals with a range of offences, including breach of the peace, assault and shoplifting - offences the Strathclyde Police Spotlight Initiative is cracking down on.

Under Scots law, an accused must be brought to court within strict time limits.

If this is not adhered to the case must be dropped.

FIRST PERSON: Page 8



OVER THE MOON ... that's Catherine O'Hare, who faced a heavy fine on breach of the peace charges

**DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION
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WEATHER

CLOUDY WITH HEAVY RAIN

TONIGHT: Cloudy with rain, heavy at times over high ground. Minimum temperature 3C (37F). Winds strong to gale force.

TOMORROW: Cloudy and wet, however brighter, showery conditions will spread across from the west. Maximum temperature 11C (52F). Fresh southwesterly winds.

OUTLOOK FOR SATURDAY: Sunny intervals and scattered showers.

ENGLAND TOMORROW: Cloudy with rain at times. Mild with fresh winds.

HIGH TIDE AT GREENOCK: 10.28pm.

SEA: 0 calm, 1 slight, 2 moderate, 3 rough, 4 very rough.

THE MET. OFFICE

UK MAP: Shows weather conditions across the UK with symbols for rain, sun, and clouds.

TEMPERATURES:

Belfast	14	Cloudy
Birmingham	15	Cloudy
Cardiff	16	Sunny
Edinburgh	11	Sunny
Glasgow	10	Cloudy
London	18	Sunny
Manchester	17	Sunny
Newcastle	16	Sunny
Nottingham	15	Sunny
Sheffield	14	Sunny
Southampton	16	Sunny
Stirling	10	Rain
Swansea	15	Sunny
Wolverhampton	15	Sunny

Branson's tough task

RICHARD Branson today launched his new West Coast Main Line rail service with typical Virgin verve - and a train that left bang on time.

As champagne corks popped and cameras flashed, the Virgin chief waved away a gleaming Class 90 loco at London's Euston Station.

Sporting the familiar red and white Virgin colours, the loco bore the name Mission: Impossible.

Mr Branson said: "We've chosen the name as we face a tough task, but we know we can do it."

The name was unveiled at Euston by Transport Secretary Sir George Young.

'Risk' plea for nurses

THE lawyer acting for two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia today launched a 'high-risk' appeal.

Loeilie McLauchlan (31) from Dundee, and Deborah Parry (41) from Hampshire, face execution if found guilty of killing fellow nurse, Australian Yvonne Gilford.

But defence lawyer, Salah Al-Hejailan wants the dead woman's brother Frank to waive his rights under Saudi law to press for the death penalty if the women are convicted.

Stephen Jakobi, of the legal pressure group Fair Trials Abroad, described the move as a high-risk strategy.

COUNCILLORS BACK DOWN AS WORKERS WALK OUT



SUPPLIES...protest leader, Councillor Tommy Sheridan returns to the City Chambers with breakfast. Picture: JOHN MCCARROLL

WE WON'T CROSS STAFF PICKET LINE

By JOHN KERR and VIC RODRICK

GLASGOW'S budget meeting was in disarray today as councillors refused to cross a picket line.

The council has only 24 hours left in which it can legally set a budget.

But councillors arriving for today's meeting faced an angry picket line of UNISON members who had walked out in support of the Scottish Alliance Group barricaded inside the City Chambers.

Among those who refused to cross the picket line was former Lord Provost Susan Baird. She arrived at George Square in time to hear an announcement from the balcony of the Chambers that the group had elected militant councillor Tommy Sheridan as the



DEFIANT...protesters at the City Chambers

'Lord Provost' and Pat Lally had been ousted. And the protesters also said that a "meeting" would be held when they would set a budget.

One of those who broke the picket line was council treasurer Eamon Fitzgerald, convener of the finance committee.

Councillor John Gray, vice convener of the social work committee, tried to cross it but after a noisy confrontation he walked away.

He said: "I have decid-

ed not to go into the building. I cannot see the budget meeting now going ahead.

"It will depend on how many councillors decide to break the picket line."

Outrageous Baillie George McCafferty met an even angrier response. Tempers flared when he argued with pickets.

"Turning away, he said: "This picketing is out of order, totally outrageous. It has been arranged without proper notice."

"Tomorrow is the last day Glasgow can legally set a budget."

"I will not cross the picket line, however, and think it will be impossible for the budget meeting to go ahead."

As the crowd outside the City Chambers soared to almost 1000, police had to divert traffic away from the area.

TIME TO PROBE THE LOST JOBS

GLASGOW'S a loser when it comes to attracting jobs, according to shock research.

But a national consultancy which published today's gloomy report is set to find out why.

Then it will be up to public and private sector agencies to find urgent ways of reversing the trend.

The document, by London-based consultancy Business Strategies, says the city has notched up one of

the most disappointing job creation performances in the UK.

Between 1981 and 1993 Glasgow and its suburbs lost a staggering 65,600 jobs - far more than expected through the decline of heavy industries.

In fact, the fall puts the city in the bottom five of a league table of 80 British locations.

Director Richard Holt said they were now mounting a major study in a bid to shed light on why some

cities had performed so well, while others had fared so badly.

He said: "We have devoted some time to assessing the problem and we will be spending the next six months looking for answers."

"Looking at the industries which Glasgow had, we'd have expected employment to RISE by about 8000."

"The figures we have researched suggest there is a rather large problem there to be explained."

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90 firms in get-together for push in business

A BIG push is on to relaunch parts of Lanarkshire as a powerful commercial centre.

Rutherglen and Cambuslang businesses want to be identified as key places where commerce can start afresh or invest in existing businesses.

Firms in the area say they have been overlooked, and now more than 90 companies are lining up to participate in the Business Forum for the area.

It's been launched by the Cambuslang Project in conjunction with the Lanarkshire Development Agency and South Lanarkshire Council.

Project manager, Margaret Donaldson, said: "The aim of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for local businesses to talk to each other within the wide range of companies which operate in this area, and hopefully a degree of inter-trading will emerge as a result."

"Companies ranging from Polywarm Products and Kilbride Industrial Services through to local accountants and lawyers, assemblers and packagers are also sending representatives."

Speakers at the event, which begins at 5.30pm in the Burnside Hotel, include Terry Currie, the LDA's business director, and Councillor James Daisley, of South Lanarkshire Council.

Local MP Tommy McAvoy will also be there.

'Masts a danger'

A TOP teaching union is out to pull the plug on mobile phones.

The Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association wants a ban on cell phone microwave masts at schools.

The move has been triggered by a plan to site the transceivers at Madras College in St Andrews. The microwave transmitters have been linked to childhood cancers.

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OPEN DAY

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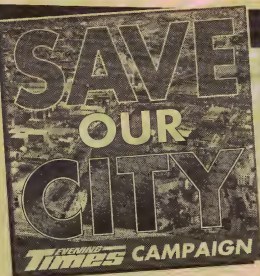
9.30am to 5.30pm and

evening 7pm to 9pm.

All parents, pupils and friends, past and present, are most welcome to join us.

For Details Telephone:

0141 634 6913



By FIONA MONTGOMERY

MARGARET Kennedy is one of the real people behind the facts and figures of Glasgow's massive budget cuts.

She has been a sheltered warden for 16 years and not only loses her job at the end of the month. Her home is also being taken from her. But Margaret (57), who works at Clifford Gardens Housing complex in Ibrox, is more concerned about the vulnerable elderly residents than her own plight.

The tenants here are heartbroken and I really worry about what will happen," she said.

She had been offered redeployment but felt it was inappropriate at her age. Now she has applied for a council house and the Govan housing office has her as a priority case.

"I am worried that I won't get a house before March 31 and that then I'll basically be a squatter," she said.

"At the end of your working days that is not a nice feeling."

After almost a year of campaigning and turning out on numerous demonstrations, Margaret is resigned to the fact that her union, the Glasgow Housing Association, has lost the battle to save what all 35 wardens see as a vital service.

"I feel very, very sad about it," she explained. "If there was going to be something in our place that was better it wouldn't be so bad."

SHE added: "But when you are leaving such vulnerable people behind it feels very hurtful."

Wardens around the city are being replaced with a 24-hour alarm system which they fear will not only increase the risk of a terrible accident but will mean some dependent old folk will need to go into a home.

Margaret added: "One lady here is incapable of looking after herself. What will happen to her?"

"I don't understand why people don't realise this is one of the cheapest forms of looking after the elderly and a way of helping to keep people in their homes."

And she stressed that many residents have spoken out against the cuts.

"The singer Mollie Kerr's father David, who is in his 90s, lives here," she said.

"He is very upset when I talk about the fact I am leaving."

"He walked on the Jarrow March and has been a Labour supporter all his days."

"He says he won't vote for them again."

HOW THE GLASGOW BUDGET C

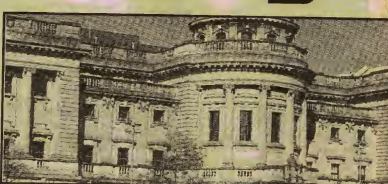


WORRIED ... (back from left) residents Christine Turnbull, May Hackett, Anne McQueen, Ava Davidson (front left) with Margaret Kennedy. Picture: JIM MACKEY

Warden's fears for future of her elderly charges



CUTS... will affect youngsters' education



MITCHELL LIBRARY ... news that opening hours are to be res

Everyone is set to suffer

THE devastating cuts made across the city will touch everyone.

Some vital services have been cut back, many have been axed completely. At Monday's crisis budget meeting, the axe fell on all council departments, from education to parks and recreation, from planning to arts and culture, from cleaning to roads.

But the trade unions agree, it is the ordinary man and woman who face the loss of services as well as their jobs.

Martin Dorman, regional organiser of the GMB union, believes between 2500 and 3000 people will lose their jobs.

He added: "No one in the immune from this. It is front services that are being targeted. I believe the authority has to make a conscious decision that support line services from the bureau empire and turns the sword on itself in the authority."

Support

The jobs of 247 primary and secondary school teachers face the well as a similar number from unity education and support staff.

Other services hit include libraries and museums.

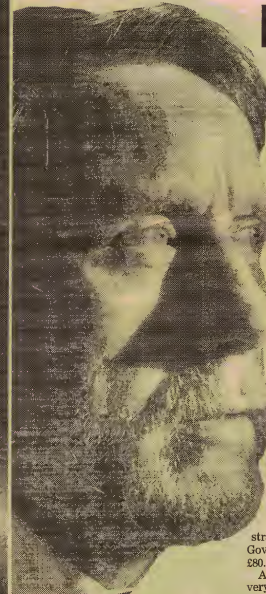
SAVE OUR CITY

EVENING TIMES CAMPAIGN

AS GLASGOW'S JOB LOSSES MOUNT UP ...

"NEGLECTED SITE OF THE GARDEN FESTIVAL POINTS A FINGER OF SHAME..."

BY MICHAEL KELLY FORMER LORD PROVOST



IT ALL looked so rosy in the 1980s. After years of decline, Glasgow seemed to have found a new role which would restore the employment and prosperity its citizens deserved.

We had the Miles Better campaign and the Garden Festival to give us back our pride and confidence. And, in 1990, Europe honoured us with the title City of Culture.

Sadly, it seems that was the high point. Now Glasgow is again in deep trouble.

Look at the facts. The city lost more than 50,000 jobs between 1982 and 1994.

Yet the city has no special aid status, no Enterprise Zone, and every inward investment which finds its way to Scotland lands - by market forces, of course - just outside city boundaries.

The Government doesn't care. That's why its appointed Glasgow Development Agency can't highlight a single flagship project it has generated in its six years.

The Government has starved the GDA of the cash and powers Glasgow needs to tackle its economic problems. The neglected Garden Festival site points a finger of shame at the Scottish Office.

And the city council is being strangled to death. This year, the Government is demanding cuts of £80.7million - 4000 jobs.

And the cuts will damage the very things which attract visitors and their spending. Museums will

be shut, roads neglected and the shopping streets left dirty. These services are at the heart of the city's new role as a visitor destination.

GLASGOW'S health is vital to Scotland's wellbeing. Cities have a special place in making any economy work.

They have the concentration of people and cash to support theatres, restaurants and top hotels.

They can pull in international events in a way towns can't. Would the World Badminton Championships have gone to Kirkcaldy or Rotary International to Irvine?

Glasgow needs large investments - which would produce huge returns. Glasgow's boundaries need to include the whole of the travel-to-work area to allow better planning and co-ordination. And we need some respect for the powers of the city council.

For the city to get priority help, I advocate a Minister for Glasgow - a Cities Minister whose brief would cover Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee, too - to direct resources.

When Glasgow was at the peak of its Victorian wealth, it was run by a powerful corporation full of civic-minded men.

Putting power back into the hands of Glaswegians to carry out the strategies and invest the funds would kick-start the city's revival.

DOWN THE DRAIN

GLASGOW lost a staggering total of 50,000 manufacturing jobs between 1982 and 1994. One of the biggest blows came in 1992 when BP's Glasgow headquarters was axed with the loss of 1,800 jobs. And the haemorrhage of work has continued since. The figures speak for themselves.

COMPANY	1992 JOBS TOTAL	1997 JOBS TOTAL	OVERALL LOSS
Yarrow's	4,000	1,900	2,100
Barr & Stroud	2,200	650	1,550
Kvaerner, Govan	2,500	1,300	1,200
Hoover, Cambuslang (now Candy)	1,500	600	900
DAF, Scotstoun (now Albion)	1,200	450	750
Claremont Garments, Pollokshaws	750	0	750
United Biscuits, Tollcross	1,300	900	400
Gray Dunns, Kinning Park	550	200	350
A.J. Barr, Gallowgate	320	220	100
Tennent Caledonian, Duke Street	400	320	80

WORTHY

GLASGOW'S problems are so urgent that a Minister to deal with cities should be appointed immediately.

But the track record of current Scottish Office



ALLAN STEWART

Ministers is so bad that none could be trusted.

So I'd hand the job to Allan Stewart, who understands industry.

And if Labour wins the General Election, I'd go for John McFall.

Well briefed on

THE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IS IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Gulliver's troubles

'The anti Glasgow bias is a reality'

By VIC RODRICK

GLASGOW Development Agency boss Stuart Gulliver is a man on the defensive.

His track record in fighting for jobs for the city is under constant attack.

Some of the jibes hurt, like Govan MP Ian Davidson's new interpretation of the GDA's initials - Glasgow Disappointment Agency.

But Gulliver is quietly confident that the behind-the-scenes battle he is fighting is succeeding in dragging Glasgow out of the economic mire.

He points to the city's successes - like having the highest birth-rate for new companies of any other location in Scotland and the fact Glasgow tops the Local Enterprise Company league for business competitiveness.

But he recognises that much more has still to be done.

For example, the eye-sore Garden Festival site has become the city's biggest white elephant. And it's taken five years for the Agency to bring a multi-million pound initiative to a few of Glasgow's derelict industrial sites, like the High Street project, on line.

Passionate

The GDA chief executive has blamed slow progress on the "anti-Glasgow bias, which is a reality at all levels of Scottish society".

He won't admit it, but it's obvious that being a full-time government official and holding passionate views which don't fit in with your paymasters' opinions make for an uncomfortable situation.

So, is he the man fighting to bring jobs and prosperity to Glasgow or not? The answer is yes. But the fight is taking place behind closed doors.

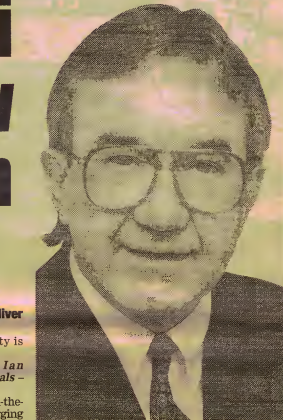
When the Scottish Development Agency

was abolished, Glasgow lost around £60m a year - money now shared between all 13 Local Enterprise Companies.

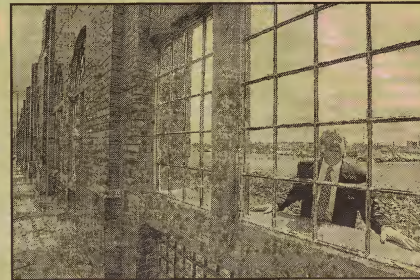
Gulliver argues Glasgow needs more money.

He said: "If Scotland is to be competitive in the next century it will need to be a successful 'Big' city, not a mid-weight or cruiser-weight but something serious in the heavy-weight division."

He reckons Glasgow will become one of Britain's economic "hot-



GDA BOSS STUART GULLIVER



HIGH STREET WASTE ... Stuart Gulliver at the development site

spots' - the places where people want to live, work and play.

But the city needs massive investment not only in environmental improvements but also in training for a workforce forced to lie idle.

Balance

He added: "The effective operating area of the Glasgow economy is not just the political boundary we're talking an area of 1.3 million people, including Clydebank, Bearsden, Milngavie

and Strathkelvin.

"What we must try to do is balance our levels of investment between the growth machine and excluded communities.

"There's this presumption in the Enterprise network that Scotland is a flat, featureless plain and as long as it happens in Scotland pie that's good."

"But there are some bumps on that plain that have more needs than other parts, and Glasgow is one of those bumps."



DESERTED AND BARREN ... the site of the once magnificent garden festival (right) has been allowed to revert to wasteland, a prime site which could be the jewel in Glasgow's crown



OF THE JOB

Glasgow's ills and the weaknesses of the GDA, he would implement a bold strategy to breathe life back into the city.

But when the proposed Scottish Parliament is established, the responsibility for Glasgow would pass to it.

Then there could be only one candidate for the post - Councillor Jean McFadden.

She has fought for Glasgow for over 20 years and she understood the value to the city of Strathclyde Region and so can work with the surrounding areas.

Most importantly, she has a social conscience. And Glasgow needs someone who hates the waste of human life which unemployment, poverty and deprivation spawns.

MICHAEL KELLY



JOHN McFALL



JEAN McFADDEN

HOW THE CUTS ARE KILLING OUR KIDS - CENTRE PAGES

EVENING Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1997
No. 37,782 30p

TODAY'S TV: PAGE 26 The Life and Soul of Glasgow

**SPECIAL
CAMPAIGN
EDITION**

SAVE OUR CITY

GLASGOW is facing its worst financial crisis this century.

No Mean City is fast becoming no means city, with savage spending cuts affecting everything from health to housing, from employment to education.

Today the Evening Times fights back with a major new campaign to Save Our City.

To save you from the Government Ministers who

have taken Glasgow to the brink of bankruptcy.

To stop the city losing out as Government and Euro cash is lavished on the Edinburgh constituencies of Scottish Office Ministers.

And to curb the vicious onslaught on the community groups who brighten life for those who need it most.

We aim to make Glasgow great again. To give it the power to drive the whole region forward.

INSIDE

Bleeding to death - PAGES 2 and 3 • Voice of the Times - PAGE 3

Living in a wasteland - PAGES 4 and 5 • We are not just a number - PAGES 6 and 7

Dreaming of a decent life - PAGE 9 • Donna eats three times a week - CENTRE PAGES

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SAVE OUR CITY

EVENING TIMES CAMPAIGN

By VIC RODRICK

CASH-STRAPPED Glasgow is being drained of its lifeblood. The city loses the equivalent of a Ravenscraig workforce - EVERY YEAR.
That's a staggering 50,000 job losses between 1982 and 1994.

No Mean City has become No Means City. Yet the TENS OF MILLIONS of pounds needed to help halt the slide to disaster is being withheld. The Government - and the Scottish Office in particular - has turned off the funding tap, leaving Glasgow to slip deeper into poverty and deprivation.

Civic and business leaders are united in their belief that there is a crippling bias against the city. For money which they believe should be coming to Glasgow is going elsewhere.

Without a Tory MP within the city boundary, the Michael Forsyth-led Scottish Office is directing cash to the Conservative heartlands. And that spells disaster for the hundreds of vital projects aimed at creating jobs and prosperity in Glasgow.

The lack of investment covers every aspect of city life - from building motorways and preparing factory sites, to running schools, community

Action

Scottish Office Ministers have turned a deaf ear to all Glasgow's pleas for special treatment. Urgent action is needed NOW to stop the city from dying a slow death.

The Save Our City campaign launched today by the Evening Times aims to reverse the city's ailing fortunes - and help grab the resources needed to make Scotland's biggest city the economic powerhouse of the future.

The cuts are biting in every area of city life. Industry, health, transport, housing and community projects have all been hit.

The City council was one of the biggest losers in the April shake-up of local authorities. Millions of pounds of Strathclyde Regional Council cash for urban areas has now been diverted elsewhere.

City Council leaders are having to slash £80 million worth of jobs and services this year - on top of last year's swingeing cuts. Last April, council tax rises of up to 30 per cent were averted only when Scots Secretary Michael Forsyth came up with a surprise 11th hour cash injection.

Despite Glasgow's position as Scotland's premier city, the Scottish Office, which controls 85 per cent of council funding, recently diverted much-needed Urban Aid cash to such unlikely needy areas as Stirling, Ayrshire and Angus.

But Glasgow's financial crisis does not just hit council spending. Government agencies have had their purse strings tightened by Ministers in a mad dash to finance election-winning tax cuts.

Glasgow Development Agency has been the biggest net loser of funding. Its youth training budget has dropped by a staggering 44 per cent in the last five years to just £10m.

And spending on adult training is down almost a quarter - even though the city has the highest percentage of long-term jobless in the country.

No other local enterprise company in Scotland has seen its share of Government cash shrink faster.

Greater Glasgow Health Board has lost £70m over the past decade and is due to lose a further £14m by the year 2001 - even though the city has the poorest health record in Britain and some of the highest

WHY GLASGOW'S FACING A MASSIVE



Our factories, our housing, our people young and old, the places we

BLEEDING

GLASGOW'S SHARE OF PROBLEMS

- 79.5 per cent of its council tenants on Housing Benefit
- 62 per cent of its youngsters receiving clothing grants
- 57 per cent of jobless out of work for over six months
- 47.9 per cent of children qualify for free school meals
- 34 per cent of its population "officially" living in poverty
- 19.3 per cent of the male workforce jobless
- 17.2 per cent unemployment among under-25s
- 13.8 per cent average jobless rate

death rates from heart disease and cancer in the Western world.

Scottish Homes' Glasgow budget has slumped by nine per cent - from almost 40 per cent of the money available six years ago to less than 30 per cent today, causing a virtual freeze on projects.

Housing Associations say there's been a "dramatic drop" in public investment which will result in less private cash being spent.

The Scottish Office has slashed Urban Aid funding. Glasgow gets just 30 per cent of the cash available for social problems even though the city has 50 per cent of Scotland's poorest areas.

Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority is down £4.5m this year because cash-strapped member councils can't spare any cash - and the picture is even bleaker for next year. SPTA has also lost £2m

in European Union grants due to rail privatisation. And it's been refused the financial powers of its English counterparts.

The GDA is at a distinct disadvantage - it gets just over 13 per cent of the money doled out by Scottish Enterprise National, compared to the 31 per cent share of Scottish Homes' budget which comes to the city.

Quango-watchers reckon Scottish Enterprise National has virtually

washed its hands of the city, with officials privately blaming GDA for not being ambitious enough with business plans.

But GDA chief executive Stuart Gulliver blames the "anti-Glasgow bias" which he says operates at all levels of society.

Derelict

Potential sites for industry in the city are lying derelict while the Government's Locate in Scotland arm directs major inward investment pro-

jects to greenfield sites in incentive-rich Enterprise Zones like Lanarkshire and Inverclyde.

Transport is suffering too, with SPTA complaining about major public transport schemes in Glasgow being "systematically thwarted" by the Scottish Office while scarce "challenge funding" goes to projects in the Edinburgh constituency of Tory Minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton.

There has also been an impact on Glasgow's inter-

national connectivity. Faced with declining passenger numbers, Glasgow boss Vernon Muirhead demanded an end to the "missing" motorway in a bid for a shift of bus routes from Edinburgh Airport. His call is being ignored by Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Scotland who traffic gridlock - the busiest urban motorway in Europe - will be the city's business a halt.

WITH so many backing up, claim for special treatment, it seems likely that refuse to release The special Glasgow faces from the 150,000 who travel in the city each day



MICHAEL FORSYTH

WILL AFFECT THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS IN OUR CITY



STANDING GUARD ... this alert policewoman takes care of the council building's main entrance. Picture: JEFF SMITH

COPS OUT IN FORCE TO CURB PROTESTS

By LORRAINE HERBISON
POLICE have thrown a ring of steel around the Glasgow City Chambers.

Council chiefs asked for security around the sprawling George Square building to be stepped up in the wake of Monday's mass demo against council cuts.

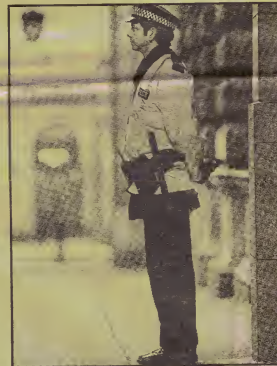
And tempers flared again yesterday afternoon before a meeting of the education committee.

Officers who had been standing guard at the building's entrances since early morning were confronted by about 60 protesters from voluntary education groups and playgroups waving banners and demanding to the meeting.

Storm
A council spokesperson confirmed they had made an official request for an increased police presence because of fears that protesters might again try to storm the building.
He added: "The future of the three schools who went for opt-out status last year, Levern, Queenslie and St Bonaventure, was to be discussed."
"These were schools which were on our list of closures last year."
"We thought there might be more demos."
Militant councillor Tommy Sheridan, who was at the centre of Monday's protests, warned that councillors need protection.
He said: "Councillors will probably require security from now until the next election because the budget they have implemented is a literal disaster for thousands of ordinary Glaswegians. People will want to vent their anger at every possible opportunity."

Fears
A meeting of Campbell, Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council, attended by councillors Bob Gould and Mohammed Sarwar to discuss council cuts, was cancelled amid fears it would be hit by protests.
Chairman Ian Caddell decided to cancel for safety reasons on the advice of the police.
Lord Provost Pat Lally has also written to the Chief Constable John Orr asking for a meeting to discuss the police's handling of Monday's mob.

Troubled HQ turns fortress



ON PATROL ... a cop posted at city HQ



TEMPLE SWIMMING POOL ... faces closure despite special facilities

Libraries, including the Mitchell, have had their hours cut and most are now only open from 11am to 7pm.
Libraries at Darnley, Mosspark, Yoker Youth Library, Barlanark and Springboig will be closed and 19 workers will go.
Fury
Isobel McVicar, Glasgow branch secretary of staff union Unison, feared the loss of 28 jobs in the museums department would lead to paintings and artefacts falling into disrepair as there would no longer be the staff to check their condition.
And children will lose out on vital development of their sporting abilities with the loss of sports development officers.
Temple Swimming Pool, which was specially adapted for disabled groups, and Govan Fun Pool will also close, as will as many community halls.

The news that 26 public toilets across the city will close has also caused fury, and 40 cleansing jobs will be lost.
Up to 500 home helps, sheltered housing wardens, social workers, community workers and support staff will also go from social work.

Trader gets £1000 fine for selling fake goods

A MARKET trader who offered fake sports shirts and counterfeit cassette tapes for sale on his stall at a busy street market, has been fined a total of £1000.
Samuel McVie (60) of 104 Catherine Drive, Galston, was caught by Trading Standards officers who raided the Sunday Market in Paisley's Wallneuk Road on June 9 last year.

Pounced
They seized 228 audio cassette tapes and 222 items of fake clothing.

Paisley Sheriff Court heard how the investigators pounced as McVie began to set up his pitch.

Depute Fiscal John Robertson said he had co-operated with the officers and told them: "I'll make things easy."

The fiscal said the counterfeit tapes could be run off for around 50p apiece and were sold much cheaper than the real thing as no royalties were paid to the artists.

Thirty two sweaters, 56 tee shirts and 134 pairs of socks all bearing well-known trade marks such as Nike were also on display.

Imposing a £500 fine on each of two charges, which McVie admitted, Sheriff Ronald Smith said: "The potential profit you could have made was quite substantial."

Clean-up at braes

THE Cathkin Braes are to get a spring clean.


Bangers from the country park and members of the Castlemilk Jeely Piece Club will be out in force at 1pm on Sunday.

An area between the 20-storey blocks and the park has become a litter dumping ground.

Now the parks department is out to beat the litterbugs.

DON'T MISS MICHAEL KELLY ON THE DEMOS MONDAY

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